

L'Anse Creuse High School

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Dr. Richard Benedict, Principal
38495 L'Anse Creuse Drive
Harrison Township, MI 48045

Phone 810 783-6400
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Email ricben@mailhsc.lansecreuse.k12.mi.us

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April 11, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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APR 17 1997

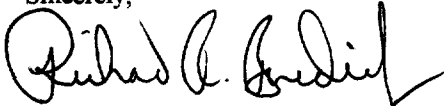
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Hundt:

Keeping up with technology is an impossible challenge, but a goal nonetheless, of schools all over America -- our school included. It probably sounds self-serving, and, of course, comes as no surprise that I am requesting your support of telecommunication discounts for schools and libraries in our nation. Anything anyone can do to help us bring to ALL children in the United States access to the wonders and essentials of the technology that will bring knowledge and collaboration to their lives is to be advocated by all educators. The "e-rate" is a great way to help ALL children gain this essential access. Please support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal services for schools and libraries. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard R. Benedict, Ed.D.
Principal, L'Anse Creuse High School

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MIKE WEAVER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
106TH DISTRICT



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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96-45

April 7, 1997

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M. Street, NW- Room 844
Washington, DC 2055

Dear Chairman Hundt,

This letter is in support of the recommended rules of the Federal-State Joint Board concerning allowing significant telecommunications discounts for school and libraries.

Urban and rural areas alike are struggling to bring schools and libraries up to the standards of modern society and such discounts will enable them to proceed at an even higher rate toward the 21st century. Without such discounts, it is doubtful that we can help our students learn through current technology and they will enter the work force unprepared for modern-day competition.

Again, please accept this letter as my sincere endorsement of the proposed rules allowing for such technology discounts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Weaver".
Michael L. Weaver
State Representative
House District 106

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☐ CAPITOL OFFICE:
RM. 220 CAPITOL BLDG.
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217/782-6674

☐ DISTRICT OFFICE:
88 BROADWAY
MATTOON, IL 61938
217/235-6033

EISD

Eaton Intermediate School District • 1790 East Packard Highway • Charlotte, Michigan 48813

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

As superintendent of the Eaton Intermediate School District, I would like to thank you for your efforts to ensure that all school districts will have affordable access to the Internet.

The Federal-State Joint Board's plan provides for assistance that will enable increased access to the "Information Superhighway" by guaranteeing reduced service rates for educational organizations. Many of our schools currently have limited "dial-up" access to the Internet, using telephone lines. The availability of "low-cost" connectivity hardware (cables, routers, servers, etc.) will allow for additional installations of new networks and upgrading/expansion of existing networks. With improvements in our infrastructure, the number of computers within our local area networks (LANs) that can access Internet resources would be increased significantly. With a reduction in the cost of materials and labor, our existing local areas networks could also be interconnected to form wide area networks (WANs), further increasing access to telecommunication services. Transmission speeds and available band-width in our schools could both be improved using up-to-date equipment and cabling. The high cost of purchasing and installing telecommunication equipment and services is definitely a prohibitive factor in providing our students with technologies that are currently available. The implementation of the Telecommunications Act, as proposed by the Joint Board, will also provide our students with expanded access to numerous "distance learning" programs.

The \$2.25 billion a year that is being proposed would greatly assist all of our schools in making necessary infrastructure improvements that will eventually put the vast educational resources available on the Internet onto the desktops of our students. The final step in the true "integration" of technology into our curricula seems to be the maximization of access to these resources to our students. It is imperative that this access be made available, **at an affordable cost**, to all of our students within their primary learning environments, the classrooms.

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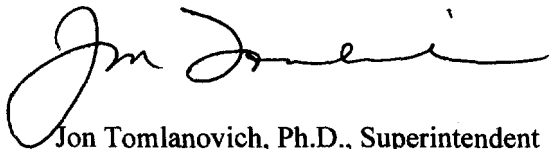
Administrative/Special Services	Meadowview School	Professional & Program Services	Employment Service Center	Lansing Community College Gannon Vo-Tech Center Rm. 453
1790 E. Packard	1790 E. Packard	1790 E. Packard	311 W. First St.	422 N. Washington Square
Charlotte, MI 48813	Charlotte, MI 48813	Charlotte, MI 48813	Charlotte, MI 48813	Lansing, MI 48901-7210
(517) 543-5500/(517) 484-2929	(517) 543-5500/(517) 484-2929	(517) 543-5500/(517) 484-2929	(517) 541-1174	(517) 483-1328
FAX (517) 543-6633	FAX (517) 543-6633	FAX (517) 543-4870	FAX (517) 543-8016	FAX (517) 483-1202

Eaton Intermediate is an equal opportunity employer that offers student programs and services without regard to sex, race, creed, national origin or handicap.

Your support of the Telecommunications Act, and the Federal-State Joint Board's education rate (e-rate) discount plan is greatly appreciated and necessary to provide affordable telecommunication services to our local districts. I strongly recommend that the FCC fully support the plan being proposed by the Joint Board for universal service for our schools.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Tomlanovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jon Tomlanovich, Ph.D., Superintendent
Eaton Intermediate School District

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**St. Mary's School
314 S. Locust St.
Edgerton, OH 43517**

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April 9, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I, Sister Rozanne Swope, a principal of a small rural school in northwest Ohio, write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

As you well know, Catholic schools are excluded from most local/state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware and are significantly disadvantaged to begin with. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classrooms access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. How can we integrate technology which requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms into the curriculum when we do not have the needed telecommunication services?

Presently, St. Mary's School in Edgerton, Ohio, has a five year technology plan in place. We are eager to move forward, but the lack of needed services for a reasonable cost is holding up our progress. Without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable for the students attending St. Mary's.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and lifelong learner in America.

Sincerely,

Sister Rozanne Swope

Sister Rozanne Swope
Principal

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CUBA-RUSHFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

5476 Route 305 N., Cuba, New York 14727-9208
 Telephone 716 968-2650
 Fax 716 968-2651
 Elem. Fax 716 968-3181
 Rushford Campus 716 437-2217

CC 96-45
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MICHAEL T. O'BRIEN
 Superintendent

BARBARA J. FUNK
 Middle-High School Principal

MICHAEL W. KUNZ
 Elementary Principal

THOMAS L. LARSON
 Elementary Principal

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

April 7, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
 Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
 Washington, D.C. 30554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

My name is Michael O'Brien, and I am the Superintendent of the Cuba-Rushford Central School District located in the Southern Tier approximately sixty-five miles south of Buffalo. We are a poor, rural school district, serving approximately 1400 children in grades K-12.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan that you are recommending will guarantee that even schools such as Cuba-Rushford will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities for our students. The plan, as I understand it, will address the needs of our district, and importantly, it will also bring services directly to the classroom where the students reside. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing students for the future.

The Cuba-Rushford Central School District merged approximately six years ago and we are very fortunate to receive funding that enabled us to provide technology opportunities for our students. The cost of services is extreme and we are concerned about the use of this equipment in the future because of these costs. The discount is essential.

Small rural districts such as ours need the distance learning to bring programs to our schools that only suburban schools can now have. We have provided a distance learning lab and the connections cost us approximately \$1500 per month. We cannot afford this for long.

Our students need the discounts for telecommunications services immediately. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

In Education,

Michael T. O'Brien

Michael T. O'Brien
 Superintendent

MTO/da
 c: Apr. Letters
 Hundt

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cc: [signature]



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Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District

A New Jersey Best Practices School

Michael K. Klavon
Superintendent of Schools

Joel M. Glastein
Assistant Superintendent for Business/Board Secretary

Frank J. Tanzini
Executive Director-Personnel/Elementary Education/
Affirmative Action Officer

Joan J. Vas
Executive Director-Curriculum & Instruction/Testing

RAVINE DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Ravine Drive, Matawan, New Jersey 07747
(908) 290-2780 FAX (908) 290-3370

Dr. Margaret A. Lewis
Principal

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools so that every child and lifelong learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act, through its Universal Service Fund provisions, mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so they can secure services at affordable prices.

Advanced telecommunications services are important to improve learning, spark the imagination and level the playing field for all the nation's residents. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children can connect with the technology they will need to compete in tomorrow's work force. Advance telecommunications services in the classroom also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent you a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. If adopted, the recommendations would give schools and libraries significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those least able to pay and more expensive to serve. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

Here at Ravine Drive School we have just finished our NETDAY. We have 24 classrooms where students and teachers will be using the Internet on a daily basis. Teachers will use the Internet to teach researching skills, current events, and the Internet will also be used to gather from and to share ideas with other elementary schools nation wide. With our very tight budget restrictions special discount rates for my school is an absolute must. I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, the recommendation will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services and provide flexibility in choosing the services needed. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

Dr. Margaret A. Lewis
Dr. Margaret A. Lewis
Principal

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Oregon Public Library District
300 Jefferson Street
Oregon, IL 61061
Phone: (815) 732-2724
Fax: (815) 732-6643

CC
96-45

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APR 17 1997

April 8, 1997 Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45-Universal Service to Libraries and Schools

I am writing to strongly support the significant discounts proposed for libraries and schools, as set forth by the Federal-State Joint Board in its Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules would offer libraries substantial discounts for telecommunications and non-telecommunications services. Non-telecommunications services, in particular, are critical to the Oregon Public Library District and other rural libraries because rural communities tend to be overlooked where Internet services and other online resources are concerned. As information services grow, rural public libraries' needs for access to online information will also grow.

Although Congress, with the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, clearly intended to insure that libraries would be able to access the latest information technologies, it is unlikely that rural libraries will see this happen. At the present time, the Oregon Public Library District (located in rural, northern Illinois) does not have reasonably priced, local access to Internet service providers. We are in a particularly troublesome position because our local telephone company, GTE, essentially controls all aspects of our local non-telecommunications services and stifles any efforts by Internet service providers to offer inexpensive services locally.

Please allow me to elaborate on our local non-telecommunications service difficulties. At one time, the Oregon Public Library had Internet access with a group known as Technology Interface, Inc., or TECHPort, based in Arlington Heights, Illinois. This group offered 800 number access to the Internet. Many Internet service providers offer 800 number service, but usually charge four to five dollars per hour for the service. TECHPort offered a free 800 number, but could not maintain the service. As a result, we lost our unlimited 800 number access to the Internet.

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Our 800 number difficulty was apparently due to the fact that GTE, through its control of our local Market Service Area (MSA), consistently added surcharges to all calls placed to that 800 number. As a result, TECHPort no longer offers the toll free number. To gain unlimited access to the service, we now have to make a long distance call. This is unacceptable and would surely "bankrupt" our library if we were to rely on long distance Internet access for our patrons. Now we have no unlimited Internet access and other 800 numbers available through AT&T, MCI, GTE, America Online, etc., are not free. These 800 numbers typically charge \$4.50 per hour or more for Internet access. Interestingly enough, despite the fact that GTE adds surcharges for calls placed to 800 Internet service providers, GTE offers no local Internet access of its own. We are still forced to make a toll call for unlimited Internet access. Public libraries in urban areas, Mr. Chairman, do not have such a problem.

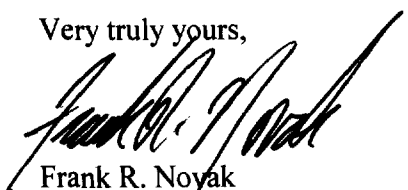
Despite the fact that our local legislators think that "competition" will change everything with regard to telecommunications services and pricing, rural communities will not benefit from competition anytime soon. Most telecommunications companies have little concern for expanding into rural areas for the simple fact that there are not enough "phones per mile" to justify the cost of such expansion. Telecommunications companies are not interested in coming up with the capital necessary to build or rebuild technologically advanced information infrastructures in rural communities. Certainly, urban areas that already have vast telecommunications infrastructures in place will benefit from competition. Rural areas, on the other hand, will remain devoid of technology enhancements if "competition" remains on its current course.

We are a small, public library. We do not have the funds to purchase and maintain a T1 connection. Our total annual tax extension is only about \$107,000 and yet our public expects that our library will bring state-of-the-art information technologies to them. Installing and maintaining a T1 line (or 56k line for that matter) is currently an economic impossibility.

You have the power to help us meet our patrons' demands for information and technology. I hope that you will be able to assist us with our mission as public information providers. Without your help, rural public libraries may eventually become museums and curiosity shops instead of the guardians of public access to comprehensive and relevant sources of information. We ask for your support of the Federal-State Joint Board's Proposed Rules, providing significant discounts to public libraries for high-speed telecommunications and Internet services.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this very important matter. If you have any questions for us, please call or write. We would be delighted to hear from you and discuss our current situation.

Very truly yours,



Frank R. Noyak
Oregon Public Library District



L'Anse Creuse High School - North

23700 21 Mile Road • Macomb, Michigan 48042-5106
(810) 598-3600 • Fax (810) 598-3616



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SUPERINTENDENT
John R. Armstrong

PRINCIPAL
Thomas B. Denewith

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS
Gerald A. Donnelly
Melinda J. Gough
Stephen M. Schieicher

April 10, 1997

The Honorable Reed Ilundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Ilundt:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45


The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that all schools, regardless of finances, will have an equal chance to connect to the Internet to allow distance-learning opportunities for all students. The \$2.25 billion a year will speak to the needs of all schools and the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

My budget in my high school is limited and what our district can save will help me at the building level. Including internal classroom connections for discounts is vital to my budget. The discounts will allow me to make the Internet available to all students and staff! This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Please understand, our students need the big discounts for telecommunication services this year! I encourage and urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this vital issue.

Sincerely,


Thomas B. Denewith
Principal

TBD/las

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Saint Bernadette School
9311 South Francisco Avenue
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805-2594
Phone (708) 422-6429
Fax (708) 422-6484

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington DC 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November. In particular, I support the recommendations made by EdLiNC, a Washington-based coalition of educational and library organizations.

The Recommended Rules ensure that all children, whether in public or non-public schools, would have access to on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in our modern society.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 with the clear intent of insuring that Schools and Libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing telecommunication and non-telecommunication carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to service the diverse urban and rural areas of the State.

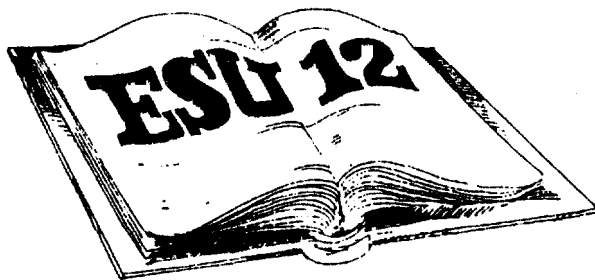
We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Sr. Ann Brummel
Principal

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #12

319 Black Hills Ave. • P.O. Box 539
Alliance, Nebraska 69301-0539
(308) 762-1430
(308) 762-1435 (FAX)

April 8, 1997

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As the administrator of Educational Service Unit #12 in Alliance, Nebraska, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John M. Cruzeiro, Jr., Ed.D.
Administrator

JMC:ds

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Affordable Telecommunications for Rural American's Coalition
1801 N. Moore St. Arlington, VA 22209 703-875-0759

April 11, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, Dc 20554

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APR 17 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RR: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the millions of rural consumers, farmers and ranchers, educators and students who live and work in small towns and communities across America, we respectfully ask you to support the Federal-State Joint Board decision with regard to the affordable access provisions for rural school districts and libraries.

Senators Snowe, Rockefeller, Exon and Kerrey had the foresight to include a technology connectivity provision for rural communities in the Telecommunications Law of 1996. When legislation is passed by Congress in Washington, rural areas are often disregarded when formulas or placements are considered. These Senators were respectful of their rural constituents and included a provision that will help to bring rural America online with our counterparts in suburban and urban areas.

The benefits of this law are substantial. We appreciate that it maintains local control in the selection of technology and telecommunication services; provides deep discounts to school districts, libraries and consortia that are disadvantaged and/or located in remote areas; guarantees the flexibility necessary to create a service mix that addresses local needs; and provides access to the Information Highway for learners of all ages.

The FCC Joint Board issued strong and positive recommendations last fall on how the provision should be implemented. Elements in the plan include: discounts ranging from 20% to 90% based on a school district's eligibility for the national free and reduced lunch count; discounts on all available and forthcoming telecommunications services; discounts for the internal connections and networking necessary for connecting classrooms; and a fund of \$2.25 billion a year to reimburse telecommunications companies for the discounted services they provide.

Flexibility is necessary in rural America. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work. Rural communities must have choices when deciding which technology needs and services best fit their building structure, terrain and educational needs. The federal and state governments should not dictate what a local community purchases. All options for connected learning must remain a local decision.

Again, we emphatically state our support for rural access to technology for learners of all ages. The undersigned associations and organizations support the FCC Federal-State Joint Board recommendations for the Telecommunications Law that offers significant discounts to rural and underserved areas of America.

Sincerely,

American Association of Education Service Agencies
Four State Rural Education Consortium (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas)
Michigan Rural Education Association
National Association of Counties
National Grange
National Rural Education Association
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education
Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools
Rural Schools Education Fund (Maryland)
Small School Districts' Association (California)

cc: FCC Commissioners